



The Daily Whip

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TUESDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2004

House Meets At...	Last Vote Predicted At...
9:00 a.m.: Morning Hour 10:00 a.m.: Legislative Business Unlimited "One Minutes"	???

FLOOR SCHEDULE AND BILL SUMMARY

The House is expected to recess after "one minutes" while Republicans meet to determine how to proceed with the 9/11 Commission Recommendations conference report.

Possible Consideration of a Martial Law Rule for the same day consideration of a rule for the Conference Report on S.2845 – 9/11 Commission Recommendations.

Possible Consideration of a Rule for the Conference Report on S.2845 – 9/11 Commission Recommendations.

Possible Consideration of the Conference Report on S. 2845 – 9/11 Commission Recommendations. The final text of the conference report is not yet available, however, it is expected that the conference report will implement the core recommendations of the 9/11 Commission and reflect the agreement reached by House and Senate conferees on November 20, 2004. Final consideration of the conference report was delayed for several weeks due to strong objections by some Republican Members to the lack of inclusion of controversial immigration provisions and language regarding Pentagon chain-of-command authority. It is expected that the final version of the conference report will address the chain-of-command concerns and that it will not include the controversial immigration provisions.

Highlights of the expected conference report follow. The conference report:

- **Establishes a Director of National Intelligence (DNI)** with the necessary budget and personnel authority to coordinate all national intelligence efforts. The DNI would be separate from the Director of the Central Intelligence Agency and would be authorized to create national intelligence centers;
- **Establishes a National Counterterrorism Center (NCTC)** to coordinate and unify all elements of counterterrorism intelligence operations planning. The NCTC would conduct "strategic operational planning" --- which is defined to include the mission, the objectives to be achieved, interagency coordination of operational activities, and the assignment of roles and responsibilities;
- **Establishes an independent Privacy and Civil Liberties Board** within the Executive Office of the President that is authorized to have access to information from departments and agencies. The Board would ensure that privacy and civil liberties concerns are appropriately considered;
- **Establishes an Information Sharing Environment (ISE)** to facilitate the sharing of terrorism information among all appropriate Federal, State, local, tribal, and private sector entities, through the use of policy guidelines and technologies;
- **Requires the Secretary of Homeland Security to develop and implement a national strategy for transportation security** (including aviation, air cargo and maritime security measures);
- **Requires the Secretary of Homeland Security to develop a plan to improve border security** (including the use of advanced technologies to secure the northern border, and



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remotely piloted aircraft to secure the southwest border). The conference report also increases the number of full-time border patrol agents by 2,000 per year for 5 years; increases by 800 per year for 5 years the number of full-time customs investigators; and increases the number of detention beds for immigration detention and removal by 8,000 a year for 5 years;

- **Requires federal agencies to establish minimum standards for driver's licenses and ID necessary to board domestic commercial aircraft and gain access to federal facilities.** The conference report does not include controversial changes to laws governing identification cards (such as creating a national ID, prohibiting the acceptance of Matricula Consular ID cards, or altering the ability of states to decide whether they provide drivers licenses to immigrants).

TOMORROW'S OUTLOOK

The GOP Leadership has announced the following schedule: On Wednesday, the House may meet at 10:00 a.m. for legislative business if necessary.

Daily Quote...

"In their efforts to destroy Social Security, President Bush and his Republican allies in Congress are risking great damage to the American economy. Instead, the country's leaders need to devise a plan to shore up the current system without putting an inordinate burden on the economy. President Bush denies he is out to destroy anything, but his plan, details of which have not been made public, would abolish the income guarantee that is the essence of Social Security... With money diverted to private accounts, the government would have to borrow heavily to maintain benefits for current beneficiaries and soon-to- retire workers – estimates soar into the trillions of dollars. On top of the huge budget deficits linked to the president's tax cuts, this borrowing would raise interest rates, inhibit economic growth, and diminish the value of younger workers' stocks."

– The Boston Globe, in an editorial on 12/05/05

"Many Republicans know the party lacks credibility on the Social Security issue," said Robert S. Walker, a former House Republican who remains close to GOP leaders. "For us to wade out there and take that on makes the party politically vulnerable."

– The Los Angeles Times today